

tual wants of our brethren in that quarter, I could not do better than proceed in the first instance to my destination so soon as the navigation opens, with the view of spending a month or six weeks among them, returning again to Wallace at the end of that time. And I have little fear that the congregation of Wallace and Pugwash, having themselves been so long deprived of religious ministrations will grudge the time so spent among their brethren of Georgetown, but will most willingly agree to dispense for a few weeks with my services, to enable me to visit them as a missionary.

Trusting that the relation, which we hope soon to be formed, may conduce to the spiritual benefit and mutual advantage both of minister and people, and may tend to the glory of God and the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom,

Believe me,

Dear Brethren,

Ever yours sincerely,

GEO. HARPER."

In regard to the above, we have much pleasure in seeing that our friends in Wallace and Pugwash are soon to have a minister of their own, and that another name is to be added to the list of our clergy in this colony. The district is undoubtedly one of great promise, and under the care of an active and zealous labourer—(such as we hope Mr. Harper will prove,) much might be done to extend the borders of our Zion in that quarter. But, while we congratulate the people of Wallace on the attainment of their wishes, we cannot but regret that the people of Georgetown are in the meantime without a minister. We trust, however, that they will not long remain so, the filling up of the above vacancy, by diminishing the extent of the field yet to be occupied, renders their chance of soon obtaining a minister so much the greater. And, as we are creditably informed that the number of Students attending our Divinity Halls in Scotland is now nearly double what it was only a few years ago, we have every reason to believe that at no distant period not only Georgetown, but every other vacancy in these colonies, will be abundantly supplied with missionaries from the Parent Church. In the meantime it is only to be expected that the most important fields—we mean of course those that are self-sustaining—will be first occupied.

It will be observed, from Mr. Harper's answer to the call, that he very properly intends taking the earliest opportunity of paying a missionary visit to the Island. We cannot but commend his intentions; being of course quite at liberty to accept a call from any congregation in this colony or elsewhere, there is not now any blame attached to him for not proceeding to his original destination, though, out of a regard to the welfare of the church there, he seems still anxious to do so. And we sincerely trust, as we have every reason to believe, that, by the time he has organised a congregation at Georgetown, there may be another ready to take his place in the Island.—*Hulifax Record.*

*Report—Rev. John Ross to Presbytery of St. John, New Brunswick, dated Sept. 27, 1854.*

In giving to the Presbytery an account of my ministerial duties in the large parishes of St. Andrew's and St. Patrick during the past year, it is not deemed necessary to specify particulars minutely, because, in their kind, the duties are numerous and extended. I cannot be sufficiently thankful to the merciful Head of His Church for the aid of His promised grace which makes them pleasant, though laborious. While trying to impart spiritual instruction or support to others, I receive it myself; and my happiest hours are those which are spent in the pulpit or the Sabbath school, in the family visits or at the bed of sickness. In the congregation in St. Andrew's there has not anything happened since my last report. Our Sabbath school is now, as then, regularly and well conducted, and much valuable truth is imparted to the young, which, with the Divine blessing, will in time produce its appropriate results.

The preaching of the Word of God is generally well attended, and listened to with marked interest. Twelve members have been added to the communion of the professing people of God in this church during the past year; while not a few of long standing have entered the world of spirits, to enjoy, I trust, a holier and more satisfying communion. But there has not been in the congregation or Sabbath school any increase of importance because there are no such inducements for men of business to settle here, nor for our native youth to remain in it, as are to be found in the different departments of busy life in the towns and agricultural districts of the neighbouring republic. But, although from our situation and want of trade we are more liable to lose our natural strength than perhaps any other congregation in the province, our church has for thirty years maintained a prominent part in forming the religious and moral character of the young, and in directing and comforting the feeble and aged members of the Church of Scotland. Had our people remained with us in other districts, our congregation would have been amply self-sustaining. The building is sufficient to accommodate 900. It is elegant in the design, strong in the workmanship, and is not encumbered with any debt; yet all that could be raised last year from pew-rents, the only available source of support for the ordinances of Religion, was £100 currency, which has been paid to me, but not yet all collected from the people. Every Christian Society in the parish receives foreign aid. A larger measure of worldly prosperity may yet be found in St. Andrew's, and a year or two will decide its fate in this respect.

To the Church of St. Patrick I have regularly ministered one Sabbath in each month since the beginning of March, when the severity of the winter began to abate, and the people were able to attend the public services of Religion. Eight week-days have since been occupied, at different times, in visiting the families in the several localities, and preaching in a schoolhouse or private dwelling each evening. These meetings are well attended.

Some families, who were not in the habit of attending public worship at all, have since become regular hearers on the Sabbath; indifference appears sometimes to be aroused to thought, and a spirit of inquiry is excited. The sacrament of our Lord's Supper is dispensed to this church (as it is in St. Andrew's) each year in June and October. The communion roll is seventy-five. The Sabbath school is conducted in the same way, and generally by the same persons, as last year. A hundred small volumes have been added this season to their library. These are read by old and young at home in the long winter evenings, and often with effect. Bibles and catechisms have also been more required, and furnished to some extent. The house of worship is neat, in good order, and also free from debt. In the past year nine persons have been added to the communion of this church for the first time; they are almost all in the prime of life, and their characters and principles encourage good hopes as to their future usefulness and stability in the church. It is now eight years since I first visited this Presbyterian settlement. The house of worship had then stood for some years neither floored, peded, nor plastered. The people appeared to be discouraged by the poverty of some, and the apathy of others, in any further attempts towards its completion. I suggested that they should contract, without delay, to complete the work; that they should sell the pews for four or five years, as the cost might require, at a price sufficient to cover the expense; and after that they should be rented annually to assist in supporting the ordinances of Religion. This idea was approved and followed, and in less than a year it was finished as it now stands, and in regular connection with our Church. It is well filled every Sabbath I preach there with an attentive congregation, composed, to some extent, of different denominations, and is, upon the whole allowed to be a very useful institution in that part of the country. From this congregation I have received for services since my last return, £22 currency. Thus nearly £100 sterling is all I

have received from St. Andrew's and St. Patrick, and therefore, without the seasonable and liberal aid granted by the Committee of the Parent Church, it would have been impossible to meet the heavy expenses arising from the greatly increased value of almost every article of consumption.

I have in the last eight months, including my journey to the meeting of our synod, travelled over 1000 miles, performed 67 regular services, and dispensed the sacrament of our Lord's Supper twice to each church, accompanied with the usual week-day services, without any assistance from my brethren.

As a minister of the Church of Scotland, I can scarcely conclude without an expression of regret that so many settlements in the county of Chaglotte, containing a large proportion of Presbyterians belonging to our Church, should have been so long without the benefit of her ministrations, and have at length accepted the services of other sections of the Presbyterian Church, not from any apparent disaffection to the Church with which they were united by the most sacred ties but from a despair of receiving the ordinances of Religion again at her hand. In the past season two additional Presbyterian ministers (not of our Church) have been employed in this county. It is indeed some consolation to find that, if the people are not within the pale of our communion, they are not without the pale of the pure scriptural standards of doctrine and discipline which she has long established and maintained. I trust the late appointment of two missionaries to this province will be productive of much good; and I pray the Lord to prosper His own work.

Another report has just been received from the Rev. A. M'Kay, which contains much valuable information in regard to the districts around Pictou.

*Report—Rev. A. M'Kay to the Convener, dated Roger's Hill, Pictou, January 16, 1855.*

The second year of my missionary services under the auspices of the Colonial Committee having expired some time ago, I beg to submit an account of my labours, and of the condition and activity of our people within the sphere more immediately under my inspection during that period.

During the greater part of the past year my labours have been principally confined to the four districts of Roger's Hill, Cape John, Earltown, and West Branch. Besides services rendered in these districts, I visited Wallace and Pugwash congregations once in two months until the latter end of the year. I also spent three weeks among the Belfast people, Prince Edwards Island, during the summer months, and assisted the neighbouring clergyman in this county on sacramental occasions on several Lord's days. In the first four mentioned districts I preached forty-one Sabbaths during the year, for which £123 currency will be transmitted to you by this mail by W. Gordon, elder, Pictou, whose various kind and generous services to our church here have become proverbial. I also received £6 sterling for the three Sabbaths which I preached in Belfast, and £3 11s. sterling for services given at Wallace during the two last years. It is expected that the good people of Wallace will yet send some additional remuneration to our treasurer, to be transmitted to the Committee, for services which they received at the expense of the Church.

In these four districts, to whose interest my time was principally devoted, it will be gratifying to the Committee to learn that there is very manifest growing attachment to our Church, and various indications of general improvement. This will appear more evident and satisfactory by giving a brief account of the state of these districts a little more than two years ago, contrasted with their present condition. Then a call and bond had been got up from the three districts of Rogers' Hill, West Branch, and Earltown, to which 173 names of heads of families had been appended. The Cape John section was then entirely overlooked. And, even after I came to the country I had so many statements—no doubt *ex parte* statements